

A
General Epistle
TO ALL THE
CALLED
AND
Chosen of God

With all such as make a Profession of the
Blessed Truth as it is in Jesus every where.

Wherein is Comfort to the Feeble-minded, Sup-
port to the Weak, and Reproof to the Unruly and
Disorderly WALKERS.

With several who som Exhortations and Admo-
nitions, according to the Conditions, States & Growths
of such as profess the Truth of God; for the rooting out
of that which is Bad, and the stirring up of the pure
Mind in all, that God may be glorified over all.

*Written in the Movings of the Spirit of Life and Love from
God in me, who am resolved by the Power of his Might, with
you that abide faithful, to follow the Lord fully,*

JAMES PARKE,

Printed in the Year, 1676.

Elenor Marshall's book

Steal Not this Book

A GENERAL
EPISTLE
 TO ALL THE
 Called & Chosen of God.

Dear Friends, Brethren and Sisters;

WH O are made Partakers of the Love, Life and Power of God, by turning to and believing in the Glorious Light of Christ Jesus, the Only Begotten of the Father, full of Grace and Truth; My Dear and Stedfast Love is to you all: I am daily more and more affected with the Power of God manifested in you, and the living Operation of it, as it blessedly appears, to turn every one of you from the Evil of your Wayes, to God, and his Glorious, Living and Standing Way, which blasts and stains, and yet will more and more blast and stain all other Wayes, and the seeming Glory of them that are dead, and keep people in Death, and from the Path of Life, which leads to Life, and preserves in the pure Life of Jesus, the Son of God, and brings out of the Unstability, Error & Going Astray, to have the Heart fixed upon the Lord God, and to

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love

love and live in the Immortal Truth of God, which was before Error, Fallhood & Going Astray was. You that are come to know this blessed Way of Truth, O love it, love it for evermore; see that you err not by wandering or straying from it, or turning aside into any By-path, and so lose your first Love, and fall from your first Stedfastness; for, the Way of Truth is a stedfast standing W w. over all the false wayes, who ever wander or perish from it, it stands and remains the same forever, and is the Path of the Just, that shines, and shall shine more and more unto the perfect Day, over all the wayes of the Wicked and paths of the Unjust. and all the envious Persecutors, that tear after their Prey, hurting and destroying one another in the false unprofitable Ways & barren Mountains, where long they have wandered from Christ Jesus, *the way, the Truth and the Life*; and so are alwayes kept from God, and the Knowledge of his everlasting Way. But Glory to God forever. *Dear Friends*, the Only True God you know, and Christ Jesus, whom he hath sent to lead to himself, and to lead out of the World, its Wayes, Fashions, Customs and the Wickedness that the World lieth in. So look not back again in the least Degree to *Egypt's* Wayes, the vain and unprofitable Wayes, Words, Manners, Fashions, Customs or Traditions of the *Heathen* that know not God, but lie in their Wickedness, adding Sin to Sin, bringing up one Vain Way, Fashion, Custom and Tradition after another, which pleaseth and taketh up the vain loose Mind, that loves to be at ease in the Flesh, and lives above the Cross of Christ;
such

such love best the broad way, wherein, though they have a little Ease for a few dayes, but if they Repent not, they will assuredly meet with *Death and Destruction everlastingly, as a Reward due to them for loving and walking in the broad way of Sin, and hating and despising the way of Life.* Therefore keep out of the World's wayes, keep out of the way of the Ungodly,* which leads from keeping in the daily Cross, into the lusts of the world, fashions of the world, words of the world, the lusts of the flesh and pride of life; these things you know are not of God, our Father; but they are of the world, and kept up in the love and by the spirit of the world, and the world passeth away, its spirit is seen by you; as you keep in the Light of Christ Jesus, you are kept out of the world's spirit, that lusts to Envy and after evil things: This spirit keeps people walking after their ungodly Lusts, one lusting after one Evil, and another after another Evil Thing: And by this spirit how is Sin committed with Greediness, and Men and Womens Reins let loose to act all manner of Wickedness, and to run into every Evil they lust after! so that many seem without Bridle to stay them from any sensual Desire that by the spirit of the world ariseth in them. Therefore, *Dear Friends*, you Children of God and of his Day, be wise and sober, alwayes having God's Fear before your Eyes; Let none of you in the least adhere to the spirit of the world, that draws back into the world, and love of the things of the world again: for such will have an Eye out, towards worldly Delights & Pleasures, and be taken up therewith; then

then the sweet savoury words are lost, & so the sense of Life is lost also, the Pleasures that such have had in the Truth they lose the lively sense of; then is the Enemy let in as a Flood, and the Spirit of God not felt to lift up a Standard against him; so the Soul's Enemy prevails greatly against such, to the losing of their first Love and Stedfastness they had to God, and his Truth and People; and when the first Love to God is left, there is a Loss of Stedfastness in the Truth of God, and the Work of the Day not well minded, but the Mind after the World, and the things thereof, and that besets and clogs, and so lieth so heavy upon the Conscience that it darkens, hardens, and is not laid aside in due time, sears the Conscience, that hath been good and tender. Now, them who are in that State, can take up that which they once did lay down for Truth's sake, and in Obedience to its Requirings, building again the things they destroyed, and matter not whether they keep to the true Language or not, but will speak it to faithful Friends and not to others, and so use their Liberty (as may be they call it) as an Occasion to the Flesh, in Corrupt Words and False Language, contrary to *Thee* and *Thou* to a Particular, which was the Language of all the Holy Men of God mentioned in the Scriptures, and *you* to more than one, or many; but some can take up an Ease in speaking *you* to one, but its fleshly, and not spiritual, it is of the Earth, and is earthly, and renders them to be at Ease in *Sin*: and this is written in the Love of God, That every one professing the Truth of God, that have used such a Liberty,

Liberty, may deny themselves of it, and take up a daily Cross to it, that so that Liberty may be seen to be Bondage to the god & spirit of this world, whereby the Unfaithful to the Truth of God are veiled, and so keep not clear nor pure their Consciences towards God or men, as to the Language of Truth, and Faithfulness therein: Certainly God's holy Spirit is grieved, especially with those who have been long convinced of the pure Truth of God, and yet give such way to the Enemy's Temptations, as that thereby they are kept out of the Language of Truth, so not being faithful in a little, or the lesser things, that God hath by his Spirit led his People into, & blessed them in, how can such expect to be Rulers over much, or see much of the Glory of God, that he hath revealed in these latter dayes?

And *Dear Brethren and Sisters*, seeing you are called with a holy Calling unto Liberty, let none use it as an Occasion to the Flesh; let not the Liberty you use be fleshly, but spiritual; then none will take liberty in Words or Actions contrary to the Truth, and the Spirit that led you into it; nor none will be Heady or High-minded, for that is out of Truth and the Spirit of it, and goes before a Fall, and they are not near in Relation to God, nor like unto Christ Jesus, that are High-minded; neither do they feel the Lord to dwell in them and with them, although they may have Tastes of his Goodness, and be sensible of his Power at some times. Now, it is the Heady and High-minded that will not submit to the Spirit's Rule, Order and Government in the Heart, and so
would

would set up something of Flesh, something of Man, and rob the Spirit and Power of God of what belongs thereunto, and so all the bad Rule and Disorder in Government got up, and is kept up in the World; Flesh would rule, and have the Preeminence inwardly and outwardly; and who are High-minded, they love to have the Preeminence, they love Lordship and Superiority above their Fellow-Servants, and will smite them that are of lower degree, whom they ought to cherish and condescend unto: Now saith the Apostle, *I would have no man to think of himself otherwayes then what is meet, but everyone to think lowly of himself, to abase and humble himself, as did our Lord and Master Christ Jesus*: A lively Pattern for all to look at, to be so minded, and to follow his Steps, in his Humiliation, and enduring the Cross patiently, despising all the Shame and Reproach he met with whilst in a visible Body of Flesh in the world. Friends, he hath left us an Example, that we all might follow his steps, and mark his steps, that never stept into any Evil, nor was Guile found in his Mouth; & there will be no Headiness then, there will be no giving way to the Lusts of the world, the lusts of the Flesh, nor the Pride of Life, but all that (with the Light & Spirit of Grace) will be seen, and judg'd to be out of the Steps of Christ, that we are required to follow; so the things come to be pursued and followed which make for Peace in the particular and in the general: so all high Thoughts and Vain Conceits will be judg'd down, and shut out with the Power of the Living God; and all Excess and Unnecessary Things,
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used by any that profess the Truth, either in Meats, Drinks, or Apparel, will be denyed and come out of; and there will be no fashioning themselves like the World, nor getting into their Fantastick Garbs, and foolish vain Fashions, as they are brought in, but all will be kept to modest and plain Attire, such as becomes the Truth of God, and was in times past; for some are greatly to be blamed who make a Profession of Truth, who let their Eye after every Fashion, almost as soon as it appears, Women appearing in Attire immodest, and unbecoming the plain Truth of our God, both in City and Country; and I write this that they may be ashamed that are guilty in this matter, without any Reflection upon them that are clear and innocent, as I know a Remnant are both in City and Country. Glory to the Lord God forever, who hath made his Power known, and subjected the Minds of a Remnant so to it, that their Communication and Conversation is honest before God, and amongst men, and is as becomes the Gospel, and as those that follow the Steps of Christ Jesus, who dwell in the Power of God. You are the Lord's Jewels (my dear Friends and Brethren) O you are the purified! It's you that are made Holy Vessels fit for God, and his Heavenly Treasure, and that retain the Heavenly Treasure in your Earthen Vessels, it's you that come to walk with God in white; for you are worthy, when some walk after their Ungodly Lusts, and after the Course of the World, *whose God is their Belly, who glory in their Shame, and mind Earthly Things.* Therefore as any Root of

Pride, High mindedness, Self-conceits, or Bitterness would spring up in any, let the Ax be laid to it, or whatever Evil Root thou mayst find yet standing in thee, or which would again spring up in thee, dally not with it, give it up to the Sword, and spare it not, and so see the Wicked bowed before the Just in thy own particular; not only the wicked Branches of the evil Tree, but the Root also, then will thy cumbering Thoughts be gone, then thou wilt not be overcome with Surfeiting, Drunkenness or Cares of this World, but wilt be sensible, aware of the Day of the Lord, and wilt do the Works of the Day and not of the Night, or Darkness, as the Apostle saith, *Ye are not in Darkness as others, that that Day would overtake you at unawares; for you are all the Children of Light, and of the Day;* and how unbecoming is it for such to be overtaken with a VVork of Darkness or to walk in Darkness; for none are overtaken in VVorks of Darkness, but by walking in Darkness, and being subject to the dark Power of the Prince of Darkness, then Pride is not seen to be Pride, but called Decency, Civility, good Breeding and good Manrers; then Passion is not seen to be Passion, but accounted Fervency of Zeal to God, and Darkness thus covering, and overpowering the Creature, such can keep evil Company, more then doth them good, yet say, they cannot avoid it, my Business, Affairs and Interest lies in keeping all Sorts of Company, and if I do not, my Employment and outward Calling is at Stake. O you that know the Power of the Lord, every where! be subject to
that

that, let that good Power rule in you, to the overpowering and throwing down the Power of the man of Sin, then by no enticement of any man, high or low which thou mayst have Occasion with in Dealing, or otherwise, wilt thou be drawn into that, that offends God or hurts thy own Soul : Hadst thou not better come to hurt or loss in thy Trade, or outward Business, then to come to hurt or loss, as to thy immortal Soul ; the Salvation thereof certainly is our greatest Interest, and ought to be preferred before, and far beyond all outward Interests or Advantages in this present World whatsoever : So we all ought to seek that most, and first, which is of greatest Weight, the setting up and Establishment of the Kingdom of God. O to know that it's come with Power, and to be kept in Subjection to the Power of it, that's more then all, Friends, being in this none is lifted up above his Measure, nor puffed up in high Conceits of themselves; that they are what in Deed and in Truth they are not ; for as every one knows the Kingdom of God come in Power, and the Mind being purely subjected to the Rule and Government of the Spirit, and Power of God come and set up within us, so the Loftiness of Man comes to be laid low, and every high Thought and vain Imagination brought down into Subjection, then not Flesh, but the Spirit and Power of the living God hath the Dominion : Thus when the other Lords, that formerly had Dominion over us, and that dark Power, whereby they ruled in us, comes to be subdued, the Lord alone is exalted in that Day.

O dear Friends ! this is an acceptable Day, this is a Day of Salvation and pure Rejoycing ; hereby you know your Marriage-Union with the Lord God, and being joynd to him in a perpetual Covenant, that cannot be broken but it inds sure & firm in all Points, as you who are faithful do witness it, and it is you only, that can say experimentally, *David wants not a Man to sit upon his Throne, for your Eyes have seen the King in his Beauty, even the Lord of Hosts, the Righteous branch.* God promised to raise up unto David that should rule and prosper, and execute Judgement and Justice in the Earth, and the Echo and Cry of your wained and purified Hearts is *Glory, Glory to him wh ch was, is, and is to come, because he hath taken to him his great Power, and reigns in Power, Glory and Majesty in you,* whilst the World and Professors thereof, please themselves with a Talk of his Coming without them, putting as far off his Appearance, and Coming in his Kingdom in them; they will not have him to rule in them, but will suffer the Devil and Sin to rule and reign rather then Christ Jesus, whose Right it is to rule and reign in every Man and VVoman's Heart, and such are kept as far off from God, and not made nigh unto him and they are far from the Kingdom of his Dear Son Christ Jesus. But dear Friends who are begotten to God, and have been kept faithful to the word of God's Power in its Appearance nigh in your Hearts and Mouthes, and have in unfeigned Love, and out of a pure Heart obeyed and done it, you are made nigh to God through the Death of his Son Christ Jesus,

sus, you have suffered and known a Dying with him, you have born in your Bodies the Dying of the Lord Jesus, therefore you must reign with him, and sit upon the Throne of Glory and Majesty on high with him.

O you faithful Followers of the Lamb in the Regeneration, you Conquerers and Overcomers of the Power of the Devil, and the Sin that did beset you in times past, you already feel a Reward in your Bosoms, for your resisting of Sin to the Death of it, and for your resisting of the Devil in the Spirit and Power of God, so that you have known him put to flight from time to time, when he hath come to tempt you to Sin and Evil; you that have not entered into temptation, but have kept pure, clean, and undefiled, the Reward you have received already, and are receiving your hundred-fold here in this VWorld, is but little to what God hath in Store for you, and promised to give unto you in the VWorld to come; you Overcomers and Conquerers through God's Everlasting Power, you shall all sit with Christ on his Throne of Glory and Majesty on high, as he overcame and sat down with God the Father on his Throne; here is Preferment and Honour that comes from above; for you have humbled and abased your selves, and have been abased by Men, but God will raise you up, and is setting the poor on high. O what greater Dignity can you have, then come to sit with Christ on his Throne, when others content themselves with a Talk of Christ, with a formal Profession of him, without Life and Power, or
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leaving any thing for Christ; you have seen it your Duty incumbent upon you to leave and forsake all Sin and Evil for Christ's Sake, and to dye to your own Wills and Righteousness for Christ's Sake, that you might be made conformable to him, and be dead and buried in Baptism with him, and so through the Death of the first Earthly *Adam*, you have obtained Life in the second *Adam*, and so serve, obey and live unto God, by a daily dying to Sin and its Law, that warred in your Members against the Law of your Minds, whereby in times past you were led captive, and could not do the things you would; but now Glory to the Lord God forever, you Conquerors by Christ Jesus, Victory is given unto you over Sin with its Law, and Death comes to be swallowed up of Life; so by a faithful Continuance in the Lamb's VVar against Sin, the certain Knowledge of a real Victory over Sin, Hell, Death and the Grave comes to be witnessed: And you are of the Host of Heaven, lifted in the Heavenly Army, under the Banner of Love, and Standard of Righteousness which is lifted up, to which many yet shall be gathered, and Nations shall flock unto. So you whose Names are written in Heaven, under the blessed Conduct of Christ Jesus, the Captain of our Salvation, O follow him fully, follow him whithersoever he goes; if he cause thee to go through the Vail of Tears, or Death, pass on thy Journey with him, be not weary of the Journey which the Lord of Life leads thee in, and he will remove every high Mountain in thy Way that stands before thee, and make it a plain, and bring thee

thee to the End of thy Journey, and if thou meet with Frowns, or Hatred from Professors, or prophane men of this World, thy Neighbours, Acquaintance or Kindred in the Flesh; it is but that which Christ Jesus the Captain of our Salvation met with, when he came in that Body prepared for him to do the most great and Noblest Act of Love that could be done to Mankind, in laying down his Life as a Ransom for all: How was he frowned upon, and hated of the World? And he said, *his faithful Followers should be hated of all Nations for his Name Sake.* How was he hated in his taking Flesh upon him, and in that Appearance by the chief Priests, and zealous professing *Jews*, who were zealous for the Law and Letter, so much that they thought to have Eternal Life in the Scriptures; they instead of owning and coming to Christ, did more then the prophane frown upon him, hate him, and set themselves against him, and without any Cause refused to come unto him, despising and rejecting him, of whom they might have had Life and Salvation, and when thou meets with any Sufferings for the Name and Testimony of Christ, wait low in God's pure Fear; & seriously consider Christ Jesus suffered inwardly & outwardly for thee; he was a man of Sorrows & acquainted with Griefs for thee, that knew no Sin, that thou might'st be made the Righteousness of God in him. Is that known as the good Effect of Christ's Sufferings for thee, in all thy Hardships, Tryals and Sufferings thou meetest with for his Testimony in this present World? that thou art made the Righteousness of God.

God in Christ Jesus, thou art awakned in his Likeness, now then thou shines forth as a Son of God, or as a fixed Star in the Firmament of his everlasting Power, giving Light unto others: Hath the Awakening Power of God thus awakned thee to Righteousness, and true Holiness? O then happy art thou! then thou art not like the men of this World, thou bearest not the earthly Image, but art an Heir of the World to come, and bearest the Image of the Heavenly, and hast a certain Evidence of that Birth which is immortal born, and art come to be a man of God, now thou art made strong through the Power of his Might, and hast passed the Child's State of Weakness and Infirmitie, and going on to Perfection, and thou art come to him, in whom is the Fulness of the Godhead bodily, and art coming to a compleat State a perfect man in Christ Jesus.

Here is the Mark, Dear Friends, which God by his Light, at our first Convincement set before us, to press after and to attain unto, and not to come short of it, God never set it before any for that End, never to attain to it on this Side the Grave, as the vain talkers of it do imagine and talk, promising themselves Peace whilest they see not, nor know not this Mark, for the Prize of the high Calling of God in Christ Jesus, nor how to press towards it, or through believing to attain unto it, for they are so far from believing attaining to Perfection, or to a perfect man in Christ Jesus, in whom the Fulness of the Godhead dwells bodily, that you know they long have pleaded for, and still plead for Sin and Imper-

Imperfection, and the carrying about of a Body of Sin with them whilst they live, and that heavy Load and Burden of Sin with its Body, renders all such unprepared and unfitted to run the Race set before them; hereupon many settle on their Lees, and are so settled, that they seem regardless, and ignorant of that which would unsettle them from their Lees of Iniquity, and shake the Body of Sin they carry about with them, & make them put it off, and cast it from them, as that which hinders them from coming to the Truth, to receive it in the Love thereof, and therefore Professors & prophane in many Places seem so much to be given over to strong Delusions to believe a Lye, and the false Prophets prophesie Lyes in the Name of the Lord, keeping People in Death, and in the Broad Way that leads to Death, and keeps them in Death from the Life of the Son of God, from the Image of God, and from a pure and perfect State in Christ Jesus, which God hath brought you into, and made you Partakers of; Glory, Everlasting Glory and Dominion, be given unto him forever and evermore, who rides on conquering and to conquer. This you Children of the Day are Witnesses of; this your Eyes have seen, O you have handled the Word of Life, you have hid it in your Hearts, how sweet hath it been to you since you came to know and obey it? you have valued it as a Pearl of great Price, you faithful Followers of the Lamb, you have so prized and valued the Word of God, Christ Jesus, appearing and working in you, that you have been made willing by his pure

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Power

Power to sell and part with all for him, and to deny your selves, and take up and keep in a daily Cross, that you might follow him whithersoever he goes.

And Dear Friends, who are called of God out of *Egypt* and *Babylon*, to follow the Lord in his Leadings, let nothing hinder your going forward in following the Lord, let nothing which you may meet with in your Travail in your Heavenly Journey hinder you, or weary you; let no Perils dismay you, of what kind soever; neither let any of you faint when Trials, yea great and fiery Trials happen to you; look not to that which would discomfort you in your Travail, whatever it be, or from whomsoever it comes, that which would discourage or discomfort you, look over it all, to the Rock Christ Jesus; look unto him who saved and delivered you, and was your only Helper in the time of your greatest Distress and Need; that had Compassion on you, and heard your Cry, when you cried to him and no Eye pitied you. I beseech you all dear Friends, look unto him, and see that you look not out, nor go not out from the Way of Truth, because of any Hardships, Tryals or deep Exercise, that you may meet with in the Way; for when a Vail comes over the pure, and the Face of the Covering spreads it self over such again, and such suffer Loss in their Conditions, therefore whatsoever Hardships, Exercise, Trials or Suffering any of you may meet with in the Way, love and delight in the Way of God, & be not offended at the Way of Truth, because of the Tribulations that do attend it, and them that walk in it, to the Kingdom of God, but
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consider, that *through many Tribulations the Kingdom of God is entred and come into*; its not entred by Ease in the Flesh, and shunning all manner of Fiery Tryals and great Tribulations, as the Careless and Disobedient Children would have it. You have read or heard of the *Patience of Job*, in all his Afflictions and Sufferings, how *Patience* did possess his Soul, that notwithstanding all the Evil Intreatments of his Friends, and the many Assaults the Devil made at him, yet Job sinned not, nor charged God with Folly: My Dear Friends and Brethren, we have need of the same *Patience* in our heavenly Journey, where we meet with many Jeopardies and Perils, and the Devil as ready to assault, tempt and winnow us, as ever he was; so we have need to keep in the Faith and Patience, and to wait upon the Lord, that he may strengthen us, that he may help us; for in vain is the *Help of Man*, or *Arm of Flesh*, that will fail all that look at it for Help; but the Lord will never fail us that eye him, believe and trust in him; he hath been and is a *Shield* unto us; he hath not left us when we have met with *Disappointments* from men, and *Perils* amongst men; but he hath stood by us, and strengthened us, that have been given up to wait upon him, and trusted in his Name, and fled thither, that hath been our *Safety* in the Time of Trouble, and the greatest *Perils* we have had, looking to the Lord God, we have Joy in abundance, and Encouragement enough to go forwards in the Way of God, to walk without any Wearisomness, and to run without Fainting in our Minds, or being stopped in our Progress, which we have made in following the Lord: Now he goes before us, he hath led us on by the

Right Hand of his Power, that we might not faint in any Tryal or Suffering inward or outward; and have we not felt the Lord to uphold us, by his free Spirit? O! have we not felt the Lord at our Right Hand, so that we have not been moved when sorely beset on every side, and Enemies within and without, strove against us very much? and cannot you all say, who have been kept faithful to God, *That the Right Hand of the Lord hath brought mighty things to pass; it hath turned back the Power of the Oppresser, and broken his heavy Yoke from off our Necks, and brought you out of Thralldom and Captivity, into the glorious Liberty of the Sons of God?* and in this we are to stand fast out of all Entanglements and Yoaks of Bondage whatsoever, that would any wayes Imbondage the pure Seed or Spirit of God in us, which ought to have its Liberty in Male and Female, as the Power thereof is felt to stir and work in them that believe & obey the Truth; it ought to have its Liberty in what Diversities of Gifts or Operations soever it comes forth, and manifests it self in; it ought not to be quenched or stopped in any of the Lord's People; so will the Love of God in and amongst us increase, and the heavenly Rejoycing be witnessed in the Hearts of the Upright, that truly seek the Advancement of the Gospel, and the flourishing State of the Church of God.

O Dear Friends, let Brotherly-Love continue, let nothing in that would hinder your Love, Dearnels and Nearness in the Truth, which is so precious and of such exceeding Concernment to us, that we cannot be well without it, nor safe out of the Love of God;

God ; and we do not manifest our selves to be Disciples of Christ, but by loving one another, and being tender over one another, Watching over one another for Good, and the keeping down all that which is contrary, as it appears and would get up, under any Pretence, to hinder the pure and precious Unity of the Spirit, which hath been and is the Bond of our Peace, as any thing of that would arise, that would hinder Brotherly-Love, give not way to it, but by the Power of the Lord God keep it down, as that which is not for the Well-fare of the Body, but brings Suffering upon the Members thereof, and so a Suffering may happen to the whole Body, if there be a Decay of Love, or want of Love in some of the Members of the Body, one towards another, Iniquity will be let it, and from thence cometh Whilperings, Back-bitings, Tale-bearings, Complainings and Murmurings, and Harbours of Evil one against another, which ought not to be, for these things stir up Strifes and unprofitable Contentions, whereby the Weak may be hurt, and the Lame turn'd out of the way rather then restored, and all are not of a like Strength or Stature : Some are but weak in the Faith, and very little, whose weak hands had need to be strenghtned, and their feeble Knees confirmed, yet Babes in Christ, and know the Father, and their Sins forgiven them for his Name's sake ; others are come further to the State of Fathers, not only begotten to God themselves, but Begetters of others to God also by the same Spirit and Power by which they were begotten, who are content to know a larger Measure of Faith given to them of God

God, through which they are made strong, and able to bear Burdens, and to bear with the Weak; the Weak must be born with; you that are strong ought to bear with the Weak, & not lay heavy Burdens upon them, to ease or please your selves; for then you are out of the tender Care of Fathers, I have alwayes found the Love and Tenderness of a Father towards me, to work most in me, and reach the Good, and get up the Good most in me, and draw me nearest the Lord; yet I have sometimes used the Rod, and come to some with the Rod, as there was need for it, and as God's Wisdom leads to it, and I found Love was effectual generally in my own Experience of the Work of God, or as a Workman for him; many have found that to be the strongest and best Weapon to war with against Sin and Evil, that hath wrought in our Members, and warred against the Law of the Mind, to lead us captive to that, which was not allowed by us in the Warfare, and a sore War we have had betwixt Flesh and Spirit, before we knew how to perform, or were skilled in the performance of that which is good in Words and Actions. There is a Time of Weakness, Inability and Feebleness, before we are Fathers, or grown to a Young-man's State in Christ Jesus; there is much to dye unto; there must not only be a dying to open, prophane, gross Evils, those must not only be slain, but spiritual Wickedness in High Places; the Rulers of Darkness, and every thing that would exalt it self against the Appearance of God in us, must be warred and wrestled with, and it must be conquered and slain; then we appear as strong in the Lord, and know the Wicked

Wicked One overcome; then the Proud Man dyes to his Pride, the Covetous Man to his Covetousness, the Self-conceited Man dyes to his Vain & Self-conceits he hath had of himself; then the Strong Man will not glory in his Strength, nor the Rich Man in his Riches, nor the Wise Man in his Wisdom. And they that come to the Truth, and grow in it, the Power of Truth will quench the Fiery Passions of such as are soon Angry.

And Friends, as you grow in the Truth, Weakness, Childishness and Imperfection you will all come out of, you will all grow out of, and wholly dye unto, and the Tossings will be over, and the Tempests will cease, and you will all come to, and be established in that Rest that is glorious, and be kept in perfect Union with God, and one with another.

And let all Raisers of Evil Reports, and Broachers of them, be found out and checkt, so far as it tends to stir up Strife, and cause Division in the Church; let such be marked, and avoid them, as not worthy of having Fellowship with, that they may be ashamed that are found to raise up an Evil Report against any of God's People, or sowing of Discord amongst Brethren, busying themselves in hearing Evil and speaking Evil: Do not judge one another upon Reports, before the Report be fully sought into, and found out to be true; then let Judgment go forth according to Gospel-Order, that Sin may not remain upon thy Brother, nor thou to put a Stumbling-block in thy Brother's way, to cause him to stumble, by the reporting that which is false, and
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judging him thereupon: That Judgment, passed upon False Reports, will return back upon such as give it. The Judgments of the Lord are true, and there is no Unrighteousness in them; he judges nothing but what is for Judgment: and that which is for Judgment ought to be judged, where ever it appears. I would not have that spared in any particular, which causeth Division in the Church of God; for that weakens themselves, and hurts others.

Tale-bearers work against the Truth, and may weaken some Members in the Church; but that Work communicates no Divine Strength to the Body nor any Member thereof: for my own particular, I never could well digest such, since I had any Knowledge how to put a Difference betwixt Good and Evil.

Therefore, *Dear Friends and Brethren*, I exhort you as a Brother in Love, All to follow the things that make for Peace, follow after Righteousness, and feel the Righteous Judgments of God to take place upon all that which is contrary to God in every particular: O live in Love, & be at Peace one with another: Love thinks no Evil, speaks no Evil, carries no Tales or Evil Reports; it suffers long, and hopeth all things, and beareth all things, and vaunteth not it self, nor is easily puffed up. God Almighty keep you all stedfast in the Love of God, and one another. You know, Love is of God, and that you ought to dwell in it: O! dwell in Love, then you dwell in God, and cannot hurt one another, nor can do nothing against the Truth, but for it; then there is not many Masters, nor striving for Mastery, nor many Minds, but all in the

the one Mind of the Lord, and he alone exalted, and of one Heart in the one Spirit, minding the same things, and cleaving to and following whatsoever things are lovely, honest and of good report; then thou wilt be one with the Flock of God, in all these things, that tend so much to the Honour of God, and keeping all sweet and savoury, and wilt mind the Foot-steps of the Flock of God, and follow the Lord fully.

And *Dear Friends* every where, Keep up your Meetings in the Name and Power of the Lord God, who hath owned us, and been with us in all our Sufferings for his Name's sake; let none deny his Name, nor bring a Reproach upon his Name, by any Unfaithfulness in any part of your Testimony, which you are called to bear for his Name and Truth: O meet together as your former manner was, although ye should meet with greater Tryals and Sufferings then formerly; look not thereat, but look at that Arm and Power of God which formerly saved and delivered us, and is able to save to the uttermost from whatsoever the Devil and all his Agents can do against us: For, O how hath the Arm and Power of the Lord prevailed against the Power of the Devil, and his working through many of his Instruments, that have appeared against the Truth of God, and our meeting together in the Name & Power of the Lord! And how have we witnessed Christ Jesus in us and amongst us greater then he that is in the World, who as a strong man armed hath wrought in many Professors, Prophane and Apostates, against the glorious Truth

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of God, and our meeting together in his Name, which we have owned, believed in, and born witness unto above every Name, and which we know every Knee must bow unto! Therefore have many been angry with us, and with great Madness and Enmity have endeavoured our Overthrow and Ruin, and to hinder us from meeting together, as our former manner hath been, to wait upon God, and to serve and worship him in Spirit and Truth, as he requires of us; for this have many been enraged against us, and set themselves against Christ's Appearance in us, and our worshipping of him in Spirit and Truth; but many of their wicked Devices, which they have devised against us, hath God confounded and brought to nought; and this our Eyes have seen brought to pass, to the Wo and Torment of many of the Adversaries of Truth, and as the People of God, who meet together in it.

Therefore, *Dear Friends*, be you all encouraged to meet together in the Fear of the Lord, sitting down together in the Heavenly Places in Christ Jesus; so as you have felt, you will more and more feel, *his Name as precious Oyntment poured forth*; and he will anoint you with fresh Oyl, and you will be made Partakers with him of his Joy and Gladness; and let no Backwardness or Carelessness, nor a sleight Esteem appear in any of you, in meeting together: For that Spirit that would cool thy Love to, or any wayes lessen thy esteem of the Meetings of the Saints and People of God, where they meet together in his Name and to do his Will, this spirit is not of God, but

but it is of this World, and is for Condemnation, wherever it appears: So be you Stedfast, always abounding in the Work of the Lord, that you may stir up the Gift of God in one another, and edifie one another, and help to build up one another in the most holy Faith, and so ye will confound the dead Faiths, and be Instruments in the Hand of the Lord, to make void the Evil glorying of them who are in the dead and unholy Faiths, that work not by Love, nor do not stand in the Power of God, but are made up by the wisdom of Man, and stand therein; all such will be manifest more and more, and their works of Envy and Opposition to be for the Fire; a Dreadful Consuming Fire is kindled, to the utter consuming of the Dead Unholy Faiths, that men have devised, with the Fruits thereof; and the living Faith, that was first delivered to the Saints, and the Fruits and Works of Righteousness, wrought in God, must come over all the Dead Faiths and Works of Unrighteousness of the Man of Sin, the bad Worker, that works in all the Children of Disobedience, and the Beast with his many Heads and Horns, and the False Prophet that stirs up the Beast, with his Horns, to push at the faithful Followers of the Lamb, must be taken and given to the Burning Flame, and the Lamb and his true Followers shall have the Victory over the Beast, and over his Mark; and the Number of his Names; and the Lord, that hath begun this great Work, and carried it on blessedly, and successfully will compleat and finish it, to his own Glory and Praise, *To whom be all Glory, Honour and Praises, for he is worthy forever and evermore.* And

And my dear Brethren & Sisters every where, that are come to the state of Fathers and Mothers in Israel, Keep up your Men and Women's Meetings, that were set up in the Power and Wisdom of God, to keep all that profess the Truth of God in the Savoury Life of it, and in the Order of the Gospel, and stand up for God, and the wholsom Order of the Gospel against all that that would lay it waste, and let in Unfaithfulness, and the World's Disorderly Spirit, that you all may be Helpers together in the Work of the Lord, against that which causeth Divisions, or which any ways would let or hinder the Prosperity of God's blessed Work, which he hath begun in this Glorious Day of his Power, that the Truth may rule and reign in every Heart, and amongst us, over that which is contrary; so Peace shall be within our Walls, and the Truth and Power of God will go over all that which opposeth, and exalteth it self against the spreading of it.

These things lay as a Necessity upon me to put you in mind of, and to stir up your pure Minds by way of Remembrance of them, though you know them already, that you all might be Doers of that which is good, & be justified of the Lord, when he judgeth: And I was constrained to be large in this *Epistle*, because in the writing of it much of the Love of God I felt, and my Heart much opened towards the whole Family and Flock of God every where, and for their Concord, Peace and Prosperity, for which Cause I have travelled, endeavouring every where, where I have come, to bring all to the Measure of the Stature of the Fulness of Christ, and to a perfect man in him, in whose precious Love I remain,

Your Dear Friend

and Brother,

JAMES PARKE.

